

REMARKS

The Official Action dated June 26, 2003 has been carefully considered. Accordingly, the changes presented herewith, taken with the following remarks, are believed sufficient to place the present application in condition for allowance. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-25 have been cancelled and claims 26-33 have been added. Support for the added claims may be found in original claims 1-25 and at page 8, lines 1-18 and at page 9, lines 5-15. Since these changes do not involve any introduction of new matter, entry is believed to be in order and is respectfully requested.

In the Official Action, the Examiner required correction of the parent application serial number. The present amendment corrects the parent application serial number to 09/594,786. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

In the Official Action, the Examiner asserted the title was not descriptive. The present amendment amends the title to a more descriptive title. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

In the Official Action, claims 18 and 19 were objected to by the Examiner for informalities. The objected claims have been cancelled, whereby the Examiner's objection is overcome. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

In the Official Action, claims 1-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Zellweger et al., "Fluid links for informed and incremental link transitions", 1998 (hereafter "Zellweger"). The Examiner asserted that Zellweger teaches a method for enhancing a hyperlink, the method comprising: displaying a toolbar if a pointer is proximate the hyperlink, the toolbar displaying at least one hyperlink enhancement; and in response to a users selection of a selected link enhancement, performing the selected link enhancement.

However, as will be set forth in detail below, it is submitted that the presently amended methods of claims 26-33 are not anticipated by Zellweger. Accordingly, this rejection is traversed and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

As defined by claim 26, the present invention is directed to a method of operating a computer. The method comprises providing a visual display; displaying digital content in a first window on the visual display, the digital content including a hyperlink; providing a graphical interface on the visual display that is operative to effectuate a designation of a hyperlink; visually generating a plurality of individually selectable user options on the visual display in response to the designation of the hyperlink, **including at least one option for performing the non-linking functionality of automatically copying the hyperlink to a second window in a manner that permits the copied hyperlink to be independently activated and processed**; and selecting the individually selectable user option of copying the hyperlink to a second window and automatically performing such non-linking functionality of automatically copying the hyperlink to a second window in response to the selection.

As defined by claim 30, the present invention is directed to a method of operating a computer. The method comprises: providing a visual display; displaying digital content in a first window on the visual display, the digital content including a hyperlink; providing a graphical interface on the visual display that is operative to effectuate a designation of a hyperlink; visually generating a plurality of individually selectable user options on the visual display in response to the designation of the hyperlink, **including at least one option for performing the non-linking functionality of automatically creating a hyperlink for the displayed digital content, copying the created hyperlink for the displayed digital content to a viewable list in a second window**, and loading the digital content associated with the designated hyperlink in the first window on the visual display; and selecting the individually selectable user option of automatically creating a hyperlink for the displayed digital content,

copying the created hyperlink for the displayed digital content to a viewable list in a second window, and loading the digital content associated with the designated hyperlink in the first window on the visual display and performing such non-linking functionality in response to the selection.

Zellweger discloses a user interface technique for hypertext using fluid links. Upon designation of a hyperlink, the program provides a “gloss” of the designated hyperlink, wherein the “gloss” is a brief explanation positioned in the margin or between the lines of a text. In one embodiment, the “gloss” is a sample of the actual text from the content of the hyperlink. Zellweger does not disclose any visual generation of a plurality of options presented to the user upon designation of a hyperlink, **including at least one option for performing the non-linking functionality of automatically copying the hyperlink to a second window in a manner that permits the copied hyperlink to be independently activated and processed.** Zellweger only discloses displaying a “gloss” of the content corresponding to the designated hyperlink. Zellweger fails to teach or disclose presenting a user option for performing the non-linking functionality of automatically copying the hyperlink to a second window in response to the selection.

Anticipation under 35 U.S.C. §102 requires the disclosure in a single prior art reference of each element of the claims under consideration, *Alco Standard Corp. v. TVA*, 808 F.2d 1490, 1 U.S.P.Q.2d 1337, 1341 (Fed. Cir. 1986). Applicants find no teaching or disclosure by Zellweger of visually generating a plurality of user options in response to the designation of the hyperlink, including at least one option for performing the non-linking functionality of automatically copying the hyperlink to a second window in a manner that permits the copied hyperlink to be independently activated and processed. Similarly, there is no teaching or disclosure by Zellweger of automatically performing such non-linking

functionality of automatically copying the hyperlink to a second window in response to the selection. Consequently, Zellweger does not anticipate claims 26-33 under 35 U.S.C. §102.

It is therefore submitted that the presently claimed methods of operating a computer are not anticipated by Zellweger, and that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) has been overcome. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Finally, Applicant's appreciate the Examiner granting a telephonic interview with Mr. Geoffrey Oberhaus (Reg. No. 42,955) on September 15, 2003. During the telephonic interview, differences between the presently amended claimed invention and Zellweger et al. were discussed. Agreement was reached that the Zellweger et al. reference fails to teach or suggest generating a plurality of options upon designation of a hyperlink, including at least one option for performing the non-linking functionality of automatically copying the hyperlink to a second window in a manner that permits the copied hyperlink to be independently activated and processed.

Applicant and Examiner also discussed the Newfield et al. reference in the telephone interview. Applicant pointed out the differences between Newfield et al. and the presently amended claimed invention. It was noted that the Newfield et al. reference fails to teach or suggest visually generating a plurality of individually selectable user options on the visual display in response to the designation of a hyperlink. In addition, Applicant noted the failure of Newfield et al. to teach or suggest, as required by present claims 29 and 31-33, the non-linking functionality of copying any associated graphical elements corresponding to the hyperlink to the second window.

The Examiner acknowledged that Newfield et al. did not disclose such copying of associated graphical elements, but asserted that certain web browsers can copy an icon to their favorites list when a link is added to the favorites list (Example, "Y" icon for Yahoo.com web site). After discussion regarding bookmark technology, Applicant proposed

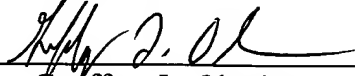
clarifying the present invention by amending the claim to recite "copying any associated graphical element embedded in the hyperlink to the second window." The Examiner agreed that the proposed amendment with "embedded in the hyperlink" would distinguish the presently claimed invention from both the cited prior art and prior bookmark technologies, but reserved final judgment in allowability based solely on that distinction until such time as a further search is conducted.

By way of the present Amendment, Applicant has clarified the claimed invention by adding the "embedded in the hyperlink" limitation to certain of the claims. Based upon the discussions with the Examiner, Applicants presume that subject to the results of a further search, the Examiner agrees that claims 28, 29 and 31-33, all of which include the "embedded in the hyperlink's limitation" are allowable.

During the interview, Applicants indicated that additional distinctions between the claimed invention and bookmarks technology might be advanced. Toward this end, Applicants have amended other claims by limiting the second window to a temporary, session-based window into which hyperlinks are copied. As presently claimed, following the end of a session, links will not be stored. By contrast, in traditional bookmarks technology, when a link is added to the bookmark list, it is immediately stored in the list and must be manually deleted from the list for it to be removed. As noted in Newfield et al., bookmarks are often too persistent and place an undesirable management burden on the user. The presently claimed invention of claims 26-30 and 33, by way of the temporary, session-based window of desired links eliminates this burden. Accordingly, it is believed that claims 26-30 and 33 clearly distinguish over bookmarks technology for this reason.

It is believed that the above represents a complete response to the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 and places the present application in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and an early allowance are requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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